

domesticated dogs and cats with corresponding wild species undoubtedly occurs, though authenticated records are rare. Many of the tame village cats are very similar in colour and markings to the common wild cats, while the jackal-like appearance of many pariah dogs and the wolf-like appearance of others seems to indicate that cross-breeding does take place.

The origin of the domestic dog is still involved in mystery, some Naturalists believe it be a distinct species descended from one that no longer exists in wild state, others trace its ancestors to the wild or half wild races either of true dogs, wolves or jackals, while others believe it to be the result of mingling of two or more wild species or races. Blanford is of opinion that the common Indian pie-dogs may be in part descended from wolves, he adds however that they are probably chiefly derived from Jackals.—Ems.

#### No. V.—A RECORD SIND WILD GOAT.

(*CAPRA HIRCUS BLYTHI.*)

(*With a plate.*)

Early in November, 1912, I was again able to visit the Khirthar Range in Sind (for the third time) and on this occasion my camp, consisting of one small *raoti* for myself and one for my servants, was pitched half way up the hill, near a pool of clear water in the bottom of a ravine which had not then dried up. The local "shikaris", disdaining such comforts, were content with a camel hair blanket and a good fire at night. We started early in the morning, reaching the top of the hill before the sun rose and then working our way across a succession of rather steep ravines. About 9 o'clock we came on a heard of Ibex, slowly feeding their way upwards, with one quite good head amongst them; but my chief "shikari"—a "Baluch" by caste and the best of stalkers—implored me not to shoot as the big head they had marked down a few days previously was probably not far off. So, skirting the herd with caution, we went on again and an hour later spotted another herd, which must have numbered at least 60, spread out on the opposite side of the ravine to where we were lying. Almost on a level with us, and well above the rest of the herd, a fidgety nanny was continually stamping and snorting, effectively preventing us from examining those animals which were down in the bed of the ravine. The "shikaris" however were convinced that this was the herd they were looking for as they had seen a big male with one horn among those visible, which they assured me belonged to the same herd as the big one. The animals had taken up their position for the day and, as they were not likely to move for some hours, we sat down for a bite and a rest, one of the party keeping an eye on the herd. About 3 o'clock the herd began to move and, led by the fidgety female, moved up and over the opposite side of the ravine at a slow walk. Those in the bed of the ravine got up one by one and followed the others. Amongst these were several big heads and each time one appeared I looked enquiringly at the head "shikari" but each time he shook his head. The last to appear was a big buck-goat with very curly horns and I proceeded to get my sights on to him, making sure that he was *the* big one. A sharp hiss and a violent shake of the head from the "shikari" stopped me and I again watched. After a perceptible interval, when I was beginning to think that the big head only existed in the "shikari's" imagination, an Ibex suddenly got up from behind a bush and stood for a minute looking alternately down the valley and towards the rest of the herd, the last of whom must have been 100 yards away from him.

I then saw that the "shikari" had spoken the truth, as although in actual body he was on the small side his horns looked enormous. He took some time

to make up his mind to follow the others, and it was probably owing to this habit of his of hanging behind that he had escaped so long. Finally he moved up slowly after the herd, giving me a crossing shot at about 200 yards. What with the excitement of watching for so long, and the actual sight of the big Ibex, I was none too steady as my first shot was too high and, as I afterwards discovered, did little damage. He stood perfectly still at the shot, puzzled as to where it had come from. While he was still thinking a second bullet caught him behind the shoulder and he rolled down the ravine about 30 yards, finally getting caught in a bush where he hung by his horns. In this position his throat was cut by a wildly excited "shikari" who fled down the hill regardless of his neck in order to get him before the last breath was out of his body. Meanwhile I, on the top of the ravine, was thumping the head "shikari" on the back in honour of the occasion. Two days later I got the curly-horned buck out of the same herd. His horns were  $46\frac{1}{2}$ ". We took the big Ibex back to camp in triumph and I measured him next morning.

The following are the measurements recorded by me :—

Right Horn	.. ..	$52\frac{7}{16}$ (Broken tip).
Left Horn	.. ..	$51\frac{1}{2}$
Girth	.. ..	$7\frac{1}{2}$

The right horn measured  $52\frac{3}{4}$ " when the animal was shot, the subsequent reduction being due to shrinkage.

The above measurements have been verified by Major W. B. Trevenen, at Poona. I enclose two photographs of the head in question.

I may add that I have shot many animals of the species between the years 1910-1918. The following measurements of heads in my possession shows the average size of a really good head of the Wild Goat in Sind.

One head of  $47\frac{3}{4}$ ", one head  $46\frac{1}{2}$ ", 6 heads 45" and one head  $42\frac{1}{2}$ ". All shot in the Khirthar Range and in my possession at present.

"RYECOTES," YERAVDA,  
POONA, February 9th, 1925.

R. L. McCULLOCH.

[There is a head of a Sind Wild Goat in the British Museum measuring  $52\frac{3}{8}$ "  $\times$   $7\frac{7}{8}$ " shot by Col. F. Marston—Ebs.]

#### NO. VI.—THE ALLIED GROSBEAK (*PERRISOSPIZA AFFINIS* Blyth.)

This grosbeak was originally described by Blyth (J.A.S.B. xxiv. 179, 1855) from the 'Alpine Punjab,' but in spite of this fact, and Jerdon's further statement (B.I. ii. 385) that "It has only hitherto been sent from the extreme north-west, viz., the Alpine Punjab", doubt has persistently been thrown on the authenticity of the specimen in the Pinwell collection (British Museum) labelled Dharmsala.

The following remarks by Surg.-General L. C. Stewart (Zoologist, 1886. p. 290) however settle the question of type locality, which should be restricted to Hazara. He says "On looking over a collection of birds belonging to Major Blagrave of the Trigonometrical Survey, I found some examples of a large grosbeak which seemed different from any of the above-named and which had been shot in the hills beyond Murree in the far north-west. On sending them to Calcutta they were pronounced new and named by Blyth *Coccothraustes affinis*."